financial institutions, to pave a smooth way in giving financial assistance to make the best film which all of you will enjoy ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: All of you enjoy!

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, as the hon. Member would certainly know ultimately, a good film has a good content And if the film is properly made, even a small film creates global waves. Monsoon Wedding, bend it like Bechham, Devdas, Sakia, a whole lot of films had their funds from very non-formal sources. Therefore, the content has to be good. Yes, he has a point that the Government has to take an initiative. We are sensitising the banking institutions, but they will also have to understand that they will have to bring in corporate governance in their own sector to attract more funds. It is a two way traffic, he needs to appreciate that

श्री सभापति : मंत्री जी, आप मेरे एक प्रश्न का उत्तर दीजिए कि इन्होंने जो पिक्चर बनाई, वह बॉक्स आफिस पर कितनी पिट गई ?

*609. [The questioners (Shri Ram Jethmalani and Shri Kapil Sibal) were absent for answer *vide page* 37-38 *infrd]*.

In initiatives to double the Exports by 2007

*610. DR. TSUBBARAMI REDDY : †

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sharp recovery on the export front with cumulative export growth of 20.36 per cent in the first three quarters of the current fiscal year has provided Government with an option to go for innovative policy initiatives to double the exports by 2007 to a level of over $ 80 billion;

(b) if so, whether the recent war on Iraq has had an impact on the exports;

(c) if so, whether Government have announced duty-free import facility for service providers; and

(d) if so, to what extent this will improve the export position ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

Statement

(a) Exports have indeed recovered sharply in 2002-03. While the growth in 2001 -02 was negative at 1.7%, in 2002-03 merchandise exports have increased by 18.05% to reach the provisional figure of US $ 51.7 Billion. The innovative initiatives in Exim Policy of 2003-04 aim at sustaining the growth in order to reach the medium term objective of merchandise exports of US $ 80 billion by 2006-07.

(b) The war in Iraq has not impacted exports significantly. Apart from temporary disruption in supplies under Oil for Food Programme, higher cost had to be incurred by exporters on account of ocean freight, insurance and disruption in transportation.

(c) and (d) In the flew Exim Policy, the Government has launched a new Scheme to facilitate and to promote export of Services by allowing duty free import of consumables, office and professional equipment, spares and furniture upto 10% of the foreign exchange earnings on actual user basis. In the case of recognised hotels of the category of 3-Star and above and other registered service providers in this sector, the entitlement is limited to 5% subject to some restrictions. The scheme will cover service providers who have an average foreign exchange earnings in excess of Rs. 10 lakhs in the preceding three licensing years. The scheme is expected to provide impetus for Services exports in which India has a competitive advantage due to availability of qualified manpower.

DR T SUBB ARAMI REDDY: Sir, let me first compliment the hon. Commerce Minister, for he has been able to double the exports and bring a lot of foreign exchange for the country. In the reply, you have said that the war in Iraq has not impacted our exports significantly. Now, we have a huge market for our goods in the Arab countries. How can you say that our exports to those countries have not been affected so much by the war in Iraq? I want a specific reply. I also want to know what efforts you are going to make to improve exports to Arab countries, including Iraq.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, as far as Indian exports to Iraq were concerned, because of the sanctions, which had been imposed, they were all regulated by the Oil for Food Programme of the United Nations. It is true that the Gulf region itself is an important trading partner as far as India is concerned; and Gulf alone ' accounts for about 11 per cent of India's total exports. Last year, the growth in this region was to the tune of 33 per cent, which was quite a reasonably high rate of growth. As far as Iraq, specifically, is concerned, there were certain Indian

consignments of foodgrains which were on the way, and through the aegis of the United Nations, by continuing the Oil for Food Programme, an arrangement is being worked out as to which are the ports where those consignments could be offloaded. So, there is some impact as far as those consignments are concerned. But as far as the future is concerned, there could be certain future prospects both in terms of food and other commodities; Iraq could be an important trading partner as far as India is concerned. And this situation is yet to become clear and crystallised. It could also be an important partner as far as project reports are concerned.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, my second supplementary is about sugar. You are very interested in exports and in earning more and more foreign exchange. Now we have buffer stocks of sugar all over India. The sugar industry is in a great crisis. Why does the Commerce Ministry not make an effort for exporting sugar to Gulf countries by given all the facilities and concessions, including those in regard to excise and other duties ? What efforts would be made in this regard ?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, I am extremely grateful to the hon. Member because his question is in the form of a very good suggestion. All these factors are taken into consideration by the Government, because in many items of foodgrains, we are surplus and, therefore, efforts to export that surplus, so that domestic prices also could be regulated by that process, is one of the considerations uppermost in Government's mind, and that is the one reasons that in the entire food umbrella, the quantum of export in the last one year has considerably jumped up. In the non-marine sector, the total food export, if we take all food sectors, is now close to about Rs. 20,000 crores.

DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri EduardoFaleiro.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, my question is about sugar.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Nothing will go on record. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Sir, exports will not go up faster unless protectionist measure in the developed countries are removed. There are heavy subsidies in countries like USA, European Union and Japan. Then, there is this precautionary principle under which our food products cannot go into the European Union. We are opening up our markets. But they are closing theirs. So, what steps are you taking to see to it that these subsidies are removed, the precautionary principle is removed, as also all the protectionist measures taken by these developed countries.

SHRI ARUN JAJTLEY : Sir, as far as the second part of hon. Member's observation, that we are opening up our markets, is concerned, we are very careful and, as far as the food items are concerned, because our tariffs are so regulated as to make sure that there is no adverse impact as far as our domestic market is concerned, as far as our domestic farmer is concerned. At various international multilateral fora, it is a great pressure that India is also building up, that the developed countries must, in the first instance, bring down their subsidies, both domestic support subsidies and export subsidies, considerably because it is now almost admitted that high subsidies by developed countries tend to depress the food prices even as far as the developing countries are concerned. On this issue, the stand of India is very clear and we are actively pursuing our stand on the issue of reduction of subsidies by the developed countries.

प्रो. राम देव भंडारी: सभापति जी, बिहार में और उत्तर प्रदेश में भारी मात्रा में आम की फसल होती है।

श्री सभापति: आम कहां से आ गया.....(व्यवधान)....

प्रो. राम देव भंडारी : इस आम की फसल को अगर विदेश भेजा जाए तो भारी संख्या में विदेशी-मुद्रा अर्जित की जा सकती है । पहले कई देशों में उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार का आम भेजा जाता था । अब ऐसा कहा जा रहा है कि अधिक शूगर कंटेंट होने की वजह से बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश के आम को विदेशों में नहीं भेजा जा रहा है । यह एक प्रकार की साजिश है और इससे विदेशी मुद्रा का नुकसान हो रहा है । मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश के जो अच्छे आम हैं, क्या वे उनको विदेशों में भेजेंगे ताकि विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित की जा सके ? उनके समक्ष क्या ऐसी कोई योजना हैं ?

श्री अरुण जेटली : सभापति महोदय, मैंने पहले कहा कि जो फूड अम्ब्रैजा में विभिन्न पदार्थ हैं, उनमें से कुछ आइटम्स ऐसे हैं जो विदेशों में एक प्रकार से भारतीय ब्रांड बनने की क्षमता रखते हैं । आम उनमें से एक हैं । आम उनमें से एक हैं । पिछले दो वर्ष में आम का प्रचार पूरे विश्वभर में हो, सरकारी संस्थाएं ए. पी. इ. डी. ए. वगैरह हैं, उनके माध्यम से बहुत प्रयास हुआ है । विश्व के कई देशों में" मैंगो फंस्टीवल" केवल आम का प्रचार दृष्टि से लगाये गये हैं और आम के उस प्रचार के बाद पिछले कुछ समय में आम और विदेशों में जाने लगा हैं । जैसे बावमती चावल है । इसका एक प्रकार से भारतीय ब्रांड है और इसका अच्छा प्रभाव पूरे विश्व के बाजार में हैं । भारतीय आम की मांग भी विश्व के बाजारों में बढ़ती आरम्भ हुई हैं ।

श्री लालू प्रसाद : शूगर कंटेंट ज्यादा है । ....(**व्यवधान**)....

श्री सभापति : एक मिनट । आप एक मिनट बैठ जाइये । मैं मंत्री जी से जानकारी करना चाहता हूं कि क्या बिहार के आम को आप लालू ब्रांड के नाम से भेज सकते हैं ?

श्री लालू प्रसाद : सभापति महोदय, उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार के आमों में शुगर कंटेंट दिखाकर साजिश के तहत...।

श्री सभापति : साजिश नहीं होती है हर चीज में।

श्री लालू प्रसाद : यहां के आम को बाहर भेजने पर रोक लगा दी गई है। यह रोग आपने लगाई है। महोदय् यह बात मैं पूछ रहा हूं।

श्री अरुण जेटली : सभापति जी, जब विदेशों के अन्दर माल बेचते हैं जो खरीददार देश होता है उसकी अपेक्षाएं क्या हैं, स्वास्थ्य की दृष्टि से ....(**व्यवधान**)....

श्री लालू प्रसाद : क्या हमारे यहां का आम घटिया हैं ?

श्री अरुण जेटली **:** स्वास्थ्य की दृष्टि से अपने प्रोडक्ट को हम लोग बदलने का कई बार प्रयास भी करते हैं। इसके लिए रिसर्च देशभर में होती है और किसानों को सलाह भी देते हं।

श्री सभापति **:** मैंने आपके लिए पूछा था लेकिन आपने बीच में इंटरेप्ट कर दिया।

श्री लालू प्रसाद **:** सर, उत्तर प्रदेश का दशहरी और पटना का दुधिया, माल्दा औश्र आम्रपाली। इसके बारे में तो अपनी सरकार साजिश कर रही है। .... (**व्यवधान**)....

श्री सभापति **:** आप साजिश शब्द इस्तेमाल मत कीलिए। इसमें साजिश कोई नहीं होती हैं।

कैंसर बीमा योजना

*611. **श्रीमती सविता शारदा** : क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि**:**

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि कैंसर का इलाज इतना मंहगा होता है कि हर किसी व्यक्ति के लिए अपना इलाज करवाना सम्भव नहीं होता,

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या इस तथ्य को देखते हुए सरकार का क्षेत्रीय कैंसर केन्द्रों के माध्यम से कैंसर बीमा योजना आरम्भ करने का कोई प्रस्ताव है, और

(ग) यदि हां, तो स,तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री ए. राजा) **:** (क) से (ग) विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

चुंकि स्वास्थ्य राज्य का विषय है, इसलिए कैंसर के उपचार के लिए पर्याप्त सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था सुनिश्चित करना विभिन्न राज्य सरकारों का कार्य है। 1975 में शुरू किया गया और